

Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to Admissions Policies
March 4, 2019, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
San Jose State University
Student Union Theater

Q: Question from the public

C: Comment from the public

SJSU: Answer or comment from SJSU representatives

Q: Hi, I have a question regarding the GPA bump for students. It was noted in the presentation that there's a 0.1 ADT GPA bump and a proposed 0.25 local area GPA bump. Will that be combined for students who apply from both the local area and have an ADT?

SJSU: Yes, it is combined for ADT and local preference areas, so 0.35 at this point.

Q: Hi, I have another clarifying question. So on your presentation, you showed that you were adding supplemental coursework to, for example, business administration and psychology. On the same area, you're adding public health and social work, and both of those degrees said you either had those additional supplemental courses or ADT. My question is -- for psychology and business administration, is that also or are you saying that a student who has an ADT in business administration and in psychology would still need to complete the supplemental coursework to have the preference?

SJSU: Thank you so much for asking that question, and I should have clarified that. The ADT supersedes any coursework. So if the student is applying based on where they earned their ADT and it's a match with the San Jose State program they're applying to, the coursework is considered completed, essentially. The ADT supersedes.

C: I also have an additional comment. I'm here because I am trying to advocate for students in Monterey County. I serve students in the Transfer and Career Center at Hartnell College in Salinas. San Jose State remains as one of the top choices for their transfer goal, and so I'm happy to hear that San Jose State is expanding their local admission area to include more Bay Area counties, but I would definitely be happier to hear that Monterey County's included, so I hope that you will take that into consideration since it's a [two]-year state school and it does offer a variety of degrees that are not available to us through our local CSU. So thank you.

C: I would like to echo that comment. I'm a counselor at Monterey Peninsula College and I'm also here to advocate for Monterey County students. As Mercedes said earlier, our local university, CSU Monterey Bay, does not offer engineering, does not offer administration of justice, so that really does leave San Jose State as the only local option for our students. In meeting with students, when I know they want to stay local to stay with their families and their communities, they are applying to San Jose State. When you look at the numbers, you'll see that our students in Monterey County are applying to San Jose State, and that is to stay local. I know Bay Area people because I used to live in the Bay Area, so I know Bay Area people don't really think of Monterey County as part of the Bay Area, but I further want it to be known that many people in Monterey County commute to the Bay Area for work, for school. There's actually a proposed passenger rail train expansion because of that commuting. Monterey County views the Bay Area as part of us, a part of our lifeline, and we would love it if San Jose State looked at us similarly as part of their area. I had a few other notes to kind of touch on that, but maybe I'm good. Thank you.

SJSU: First, thank you for making the drive here because I recognize that it's a significant effort to be here. And Mercedes, we talked before. I assure you that your feedback will be taken into account. That's part of why we do this process, is to hear to hear from the feedback. We have 534 undergraduates right now from Monterey County, and so students are coming here and being admitted. And students can also be admitted through our Spartan Pathways program as well. But it's important for us to hear, and I assure you that we will be giving consideration to the feedback. We'll be talking with our enrollment team and with the upper administrators here to take that feedback into account. We just appreciate you taking the time. We wish we could offer it to everyone. We may not be able to at this time, but no decision is final at this point until March 15th.

SJSU: The point you made about certain programs being unique to San Jose State -- if students aren't being admitted directly because, as Sharon said, many students are already students here, then when they complete their Spartan Pathways application, that should be one of the issues that they bring up in terms of a unique reason why they should be looked at holistically because it is not offered at Monterey Bay.

Q: I guess a follow-up question regarding that: I personally haven't worked with any transfer student offered the Spartan Pathway -- is that something that is currently offered to transfer students and I just haven't come across it in my office yet?

SJSU: Yes. During the review process, if you are not offered admission but you are CSU eligible, you were withdrawn because you didn't meet the thresholds to the major. In the messages that we send out to students, we offer up appeal, meaning did we make a mistake? We want to look at it again, or you can apply to Spartan Pathways. The Spartan Pathways application is an essay or message from the student written by the student, one letter of recommendation from the student counselor or teacher, someone who can support the academic as well as the community service of that student. So it's more of a holistic review of the student. When we look at the application, we're going to look at full academic qualifications, meaning we do require official transcripts. So we're going to do a full evaluation as well as a holistic review with the committee that reviews the letter and the letters of recommendation. We then work with-- if it's a transfer student, we'll look to try to get them in the major. However, we mostly work with the associate deans for the college to try to get them into a major that has space. In essence, if they're applying to computer science through Spartan Pathways -- I'll just be really transparent -- it's unlikely they're going to get into computer science because they went to Spartan Pathways. But we do work with Science to try to get them to a major that will help them. I think you asked how long this was going through. This has been for the last three to four years we've had Spartan Pathways.

Q: I had a quick question. What is the reason to expand from the Santa Clara area as impaction if San Jose is already a difficult school to get into, but going into more, like, Contra Costa, San Mateo, San Francisco? Can you elaborate more on as to better fit the Bay Area for San Jose, because you do have San Francisco in that area, but they do overlap, but we just want to know what's the reason to expand into these other counties further up north towards San Francisco and not so much towards Monterey?

SJSU: Several reasons, one of which is we see ourselves serving the entire Bay Area, not just our local admission area. We recognize that San Jose State University has 13 engineering programs whereas the other CSUs in the area, and actually out of all the universities, we have the most engineering programs. I think the highest one is 10. We have some unique programs that we feel strongly should be made available to more students than just giving the preference to our local admission area. And the other component is ensuring we better reflect the Bay Area demographics. We want to ensure that we're reflecting those. We're close to reflecting our Santa Clara County demographics, but don't believe that, again, we're representing fully the Bay Area demographics.

SJSU: Any other questions out there? Well, thank you all for making time for us today. We will, if my colleagues can, commit to staying here for as long as possible for any questions that you may want to ask one-on-one. Thank you so much for being a partner with San Jose State University, and we wish you a not-so-dry rest of the week. Hope it's a good week. Thank you.

